## REMARKS

The above amendments to the above-captioned application along with the following remarks are being submitted as a full and complete response to the Office Action dated July 1, 2005 (U.S. Patent Office Paper No. 10272005). In view of the above amendments and the following remarks, the Examiner is respectfully requested to give due reconsideration to this application, to indicate the allowability of the claims, and to pass this case to issue.

### Status of the Claims

As outlined above, claims 1-13 stand for consideration in this application, wherein claims 1-6, 8-10 and 12-13 are being amended to correct formal errors and to more particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject invention. All amendments to the application, as well as the arguments presented hereinbelow, are fully supported therein, including page 10, lines 9-22; page 12, lines 4-19; and page 17, line 16 to page 20, line 12; and Figures 7-9. Applicant hereby submits that no new matter is being introduced into the application through the submission of this response.

### Prior Art Rejections

The Examiner rejected claims 1-13 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Kametani (US Patent No. 6,839,346). Applicants have reviewed the above rejection, and hereby respectfully traverse.

The present invention as now recited in claim 1 is directed to a packet processing method, comprising the steps of: providing a packet processing apparatus that incorporates a processor selector for extracting identification information that denotes a characteristic of a data flow composed of an input packet from the packet, a processing selecting table for holding a pair of data items that are identification information and a processing to be performed for the packet in advance, a table searcher for searching information in the processing selecting table according to a search key, which is identification information extracted by the processor selector, a packet processor for processing the packet according to a result of searching in the table, and a port selector for sending the processed packet; extracting identification information that denotes a characteristic of a data flow composed of an input packet from the header information of the packet, wherein the packet processor is one of a plurality of types of packet processors, each being independent for a processing type

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to be performed for packets; and selecting a processing to be performed for the data of a packet in a packet flow for each input packet flow.

As recited in claim 7, the present invention is directed to a packet processing apparatus, comprising: a processor selector for extracting identification information that denotes a characteristic of a data flow composed of an input packet from the packet; a processing selecting table for holding a pair of data items that are identification information and a processing to be performed for the packet in advance; a table searcher for searching information in the processing selecting table according to a search key, which is identification information extracted by the processor selector; a packet processor for processing the packet according to a result of searching in the table; and a port selector for sending the processed packet.

Further, the present invention as recited in claim 11 is directed to a packet processing apparatus, comprising: a processor selector for deciding the source of an input packet; a processing selecting table for holding a pair of data items that are identification information and a processing to be performed for the packet in advance; a table searcher for searching information in the processing selecting table according to a search key, which is a source of the packet decided by the processor selector; a packet processor for processing the packet according to a result of searching in the table; and a port selector for sending the processed packet.

Among the main features of the present invention, referring for example to Figure 9, the processor selector 100 selects the packet processor based on an identifier of data flow composed of an input packet. Specifically, the processor selector categorizes the input packets, and selects a processor for each category. As a result, the packet processors do not all carry out the process for every packet.

In contrast, the reference of Katemani '346 merely discloses plural processors for various lower layer processes, where each of the plural processors does carry out every process for every packet that requires each lower layer process (see col. 8, lines 41-44). Consequently, Applicants will strongly but respectfully contend that Katemani '346 cannot anticipate or render obvious each and every feature of the claimed invention. At the very least, this reference fails to show or suggest any structure or operation even remotely similar to those of the processor selector of the present invention.

As a matter of fact, Applicants will even contend that because Katemani '346 is essentially directed to carrying out every process for every packet, as opposed to the present invention that selects a processor for each category of input packets, the teachings of Katemani '346 are in actuality contradictory to the teachings and purposes of the present invention. It is well established that a reference that teaches away from or contradicts a subject invention cannot be properly cited against that invention. Thus, Applicants will submit that the present invention as now claimed is distinguishable and thereby allowable over the prior art of record.
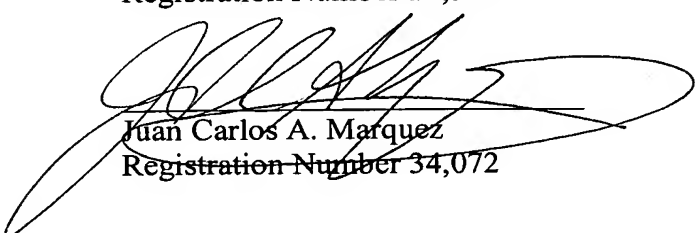
Conclusion

In view of all the above, Applicant respectfully submits that certain clear and distinct differences as discussed exist between the present invention as now claimed and the prior art references upon which the rejections in the Office Action rely. These differences are more than sufficient that the present invention as now claimed would not have been anticipated nor rendered obvious given the prior art. Rather, the present invention as a whole is distinguishable, and thereby allowable over the prior art.

Favorable reconsideration of this application as amended is respectfully solicited. Should there be any outstanding issues requiring discussion that would further the prosecution and allowance of the above-captioned application, the Examiner is invited to contact the Applicant's undersigned representative at the address and phone number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,

Stanley P. Fisher
Registration Number 24,344

Juan Carlos A. Marquez
Registration Number 34,072

**REED SMITH LLP**
3110 Fairview Park Drive
Suite 1400
Falls Church, Virginia 22042
(703) 641-4200

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